

## Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20

IGA-02 CU-04 RSR-01 /059 W

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R 251950Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL CALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 769

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS CALI 0214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJ: CONTINUED FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AT UNIVERSITY OF VALLE

REF: CALI A-20 JUNE 19, 1973.

UNIVERSITY OF VALLE DIRECTIVE COUNCIL ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT, DUE TO SEVERE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THE UNIVERSITY WOULD NOT BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR ON AUGUST 1, AS OFFICIALLY SCHEDULE. THIS IS CULMINATION OF FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE PLAGUED UNIVERSITY OF VALLE FOR MANY MONTHS. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION BASICALLY IS THAT UNIVERSITY SHOULD OPEN AS PLANNED ON AUGUST FIRST AND THEN MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN. UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE'S POSITION IS THAT MONEY ISSUE MUST BE SETTLED BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN. WHY OPEN ON AUGUST FIRST, THE RECTOR ASK IF ON AUGUST 15 WE CANNOT PAY SALARIES.

RECTOR ALBERTO LEON AND DEANS OF ALL DEPARTMENTS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL NOT RESIGN BUT WILL HAVE TO BE FIRED IF GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO TAKE SUCH DRASTIC ACTION. LEON IS FIRST RECTOR IN RECENT MEMORY TO HAVE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF PROFESSORS, STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES IN HIS STAND. CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF RECTOR TOLD REPORTING OFFICES THAT RECTOR IS HAVING TROUBLE CONVINCING GOC OFFICIALS THAT HE IS NOT CLOSEING THE UNIVERSITY AS SUCH, BUT IS MERELY DELAYING THE OPENING UNTIL SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

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COMMENT:

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, SOONER OR LATER, THE UNIVERSITY WILL OPEN. UVALLE IS THE ONLY UNIVERSITY IN COLOMBIA THAT HAS NOT LOST A DAY OF CLASSES IN TWO YEARS. IT WOULD BE A PITY IF SO FINE AN INSTITUTION WERE TO SUFFER DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDING AND FALSE ECONOMIES.  
RUBENSTEIN

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## Message Attributes

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